

## Council Destroying Assets, Kurtz Says

The charge was made this week that four incumbent Torrance councilmen have acted directly in opposition to the best interests of the community in matters of property zoning.

George Kurtz, candidate for one of the three City Council seats at stake in the April 10 city elections, said that "we've been shown the ridiculous aspect of the council majority systematically trying to destroy the principal economic assets of the community."

Four councilmen, including the only incumbent seeking re-election, Jay Beasley, have consistently sought to reduce valuable industrial-zone property by rezoning for large residential tracts, Kurtz said.

"IT DOESN'T take any special knowledge of taxation

structure to recognize the advantage of maintaining a reasonable industrial-residential balance in a growing city," Kurtz said. "The fact is, Torrance has the lowest residential tax rate in the South Bay for just one reason—the tax revenues paid by its industrial landowners."

He also noted that Southern California's traditional "bedroom communities" such as Glendale and several of the Orange County cities carry residential tax loads of 50 per cent or more than that of Torrance.

ONLY A MAJOR referendum effort, spearheaded by Kurtz and other concerned citizens, headed off a move by the four councilmen to split off 155 industrial acres for the proposed

Marble tract residential development.

"When the referendum pressure was felt, only then did the proposal go back on the shelf," Kurtz said. "Whether its supporters in the council intended it or not, it seems obvious to me that the move was directly against the best interests of the Torrance majority."

A Torrance "master plan" to

settle future zoning questions authoritatively is essential to the orderly and prudent development of the city, according to Kurtz.

"THE MASTER plan idea is not my exclusive concept—all most every candidate for council includes it in his platform—but I am determined to make it more than just a pat solu-

tion that stops with lip service," Kurtz declared.

"The results of a major study should chart our directions in library and park development, investigation of our future needs for a junior or state college, a review of future traffic and parking needs, and a plan for revitalizing the Torrance downtown," Kurtz said. He laid particular stress on the need for a satisfactory solution to the "garbled" Torrance library situation, where a "go it alone" or county-cooperative decision must be made within a year.

KURTZ, Torrance attorney who currently serves as chairman of the City Library Commission, pointed out that lack of concern for library development in the past several years has resulted in "a makeshift library facility that is obviously inferior to most progressive cities in this area of comparable size and structure."

While he said that lack of long-range council planning makes it improbable that Torrance can "go it alone" in bringing the library system up to standard, the council should

start now to prepare properly for negotiation to join the Los Angeles County library system.

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THE ALTERNATIVE," he said, "is literally no library at all, because the present council has failed to build adequate cash reserves for an independent library development."

Current county proposals call for construction of a major central library to serve the South Bay, to be built in the Torrance civic center.

Kurtz is conducting his campaign through an active sched-

ule of informal "coffee talks," debates, and larger public gatherings.

"A bargain is something you can't use at a price you can't resist."

## Blount Challenges Isen To Debate City Issues

Mayorality Candidate Willys Blount Wednesday challenged the incumbent mayor, Albert Isen, to debate the issues facing Torrance and the future of our residents "sometime prior to the April 10 election."

Blount charged Isen with "running the city like a dictator, refusing to let citizens talk at council meetings, and ruling with an iron hand."

He pointed out the debate would bring the issues to a head and give voters a chance to know the mayorality candidates better.

"I AM CONVINCED the voters want a return to mature, sober government principles," Blount said "and this debate will give our residents a chance to compare the issues and platforms of Mr. Isen and myself. I hope the incumbent mayor accepts my challenge."

Four possible dates and locations were suggested for the proposed debate:

VICTOR WOMEN'S Club at Victor School, Thursday, March 29; the North Torrance Group

at Higgins Brick Yard on Monday, April 2; Torrance Women's Club at the Women's Club, Wednesday, April 4, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Torrance High School Auditorium on Friday, April 6.

It was proposed that each candidate submit three current city problems to discuss to the debate moderator, with each speaker to have 30 minutes for his presentation and each to have 15 minutes for a rebuttal.

### Streets Approved in Dominguez Tract

Recent street improvements in Tract No. 25310, just completed by the developer, have been accepted as county highways by the board of supervisors, Supervisor Burton W. Chace has disclosed.

The improvements, serving 37 homesites in the new development on 208th Street west of the Harbor Freeway, include the construction of pavement, curb and gutter, drainage structures, and sidewalks.

Chace said the improvements were constructed by the developer under the supervision of the Los Angeles County Road Department at an approximate cost of \$26,000.

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